



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 BIDDLE ROAD  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI  
*Pete Watson Road Use Permit and Road Construction*  
*- China Basin Road System -*  
(EA # OR110-02-02)

## I. DECISION:

The decision is to adopt Alternative 2 as presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and to grant a temporary O&C right-of-way permit to the applicant. This permit will include authorization to construct approximately 200 feet of new road across BLM land and to permit commercial hauling over the new road. The decision is also to allow Mr. Watson to amend, upon proper application, his existing road right-of-way grant to allow him long term non-commercial uses over the specified BLM roads. All of the project design features described in the EA are to be included in the implementation of this decision.

## II. RATIONALE:

Granting the right-of-way permit will allow the applicant to access his property in a manner that is less impacting than denying the application and compelling him to construct alternative roads exclusively on his property. The road location proposed in Alternative 2 reflects a number of adjustments from that in the initial application. These adjustments were made to minimize the overall environmental impacts from those that would have resulted if the initially requested route across BLM land were implemented. The impacts from Alternative 2 are also less than those that would be anticipated if Alternative 1 were selected and the applicant were compelled to restrict new road construction to his private lands.

The proposal and EA was made available for a formal 15 day public review period in January 2002. No comments regarding the project proposal or the EA were received. However, comments were received from three people stating that they thought that the map included with the letter announcing the availability of the EA was confusing which had resulted in some citizens not commenting in spite of concerns about the proposal. An additional mailing and comment period was held in March - April 2002 to address this. Only one response was received as a result of this: a nearby landowner sought some clarification of the proposal.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and

Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001). This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

This decision is consistent with, and furthers, the BLM's Strategic Planning Goal 1.2.4 which is to provide right-of ways when consistent with land health standards.

This decision will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212).

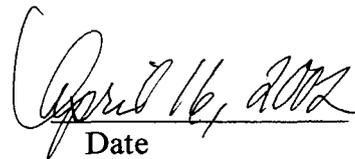
**III. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment and record for this project, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute a significant effect to the quality of the human environment. The impacts will not exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents to which the project EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

The effective date of this decision will be the date of publication of a Notice of Decision in The Grants Pass Daily Courier.

In accordance with 43 CFR §2812.9, any party adversely affected by this decision has the right to appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). Any appeal must be made in strict accordance with the regulations contained in part 4 of 43 CFR Subtitle A. This includes, among other requirements, the requirement that a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision. The regulations also provide for petitioning for a stay of the decision, if desired.

  
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Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

  
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Date